

Applicant : Hongyong Zhang et al.
Serial No. : 10/699,796
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Attorney's Docket No.: 07977-117003 / US3252D1D1

REMARKS

Claims 17, 18 and 20-74 are currently pending, with claims 17, 21, 25, 29, 31, 33, 35 and 37 being independent. Claims 17, 21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31, 33, 35, 37 and 41 have been amended and claims 43-74 have been added. No new matter has been introduced.

The claims have been rejected under section 112, first paragraph, for an alleged failure of the specification to satisfy the enablement requirement. Applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks provided below.

With respect to claims 17, 21, 25, 29, 31, 33 and 35, the rejection asserts that the recitation that the first through the third electrodes are electrically connected with each other before electrically separating the third electrode from the first and the second electrodes is incomplete and unclear. Each of independent claims 17, 21, 25, 29, 31, 33 and 35 has been amended to recite "performing at least one step with the third electrode being electrically connected to the first and the second electrodes" and "electrically separating the third electrode from the first and the second electrodes after performing said at least one step." Support for this recitation may be found in the application at page 8, line 6 to page 9, line 3, which describes a short ring that is connected to driver and gate lines, that operates as an electrode of a protective capacitor that absorbs instantaneous electric pulses during, for example, a plasma process (see page 3, lines 1-7), and that is separated from the circuit in the end so as to have no wiring function in the finished product. The short ring is further described with respect to Fig. 3, where it is element 307. In particular, as noted on page 14, lines 13-17, the protective capacitor, of which the short ring 307 is an electrode, is formed in a region where the short ring 307 and a semiconductor area face each other through an insulating film, and functions as a protective capacitor for absorbing an electric pulse. Thus, the short ring constitutes a recited third electrode that is connected to electrodes of active matrix and driver circuit regions (i.e., the gate electrodes and source lines) during the performance of at least one step (i.e., the plasma process) and that is later separated from the other electrodes.

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With respect to claims 17, 21, 25, 31 and 35, the rejection questions how the third electrode can form a protective capacitor. The claims have been amended to recite that the third electrode is an electrode of the protective capacitor.

With respect to claims 17, 21 and 25, the rejection questions how the electrode can be formed to surround the active matrix circuit and the driver circuit. Such an arrangement is shown by the short ring 102 of Fig. 1.

With respect to claim 37, the rejection also asserts that the claim is unclear with respect to how the second conductive layer forms a protective capacitor and is electrically connected to the two first conductive layers before electrically separating the second conductive layer from the two first conductive layers. Claim 37 has been amended to recite "performing at least one step with the second conductive layer being electrically connected to the two first conductive layers" and "electrically separating the second conductive layer from the two first conductive layers after performing said at least one step." Support for this arrangement is discussed above.

With respect to claim 41, the rejection asserts that the claim is unclear with respect to the recitation that the protective capacitor comprises another electrode which comprises a semiconductor layer. Claim 41 has been amended to recite that the protective capacitor comprises a semiconductor layer as an electrode. Support for this recitation may be found in the application at page 13, lines 11-13.

Support for the new claims may be found in the application at page 3, lines 8-14 (claims 43, 44, 47, 48, 51, 52, 55, 56, 59, 60, 63, 64, 67, 68, 71 and 72); page 3, lines 1-7 (claims 45, 49, 53, 57, 61, 65, 69 and 73); and page 25, lines 5-8 (claims 46, 50, 54, 58, 62, 66, 70 and 74).

Applicant submits that all claims are in condition for allowance.

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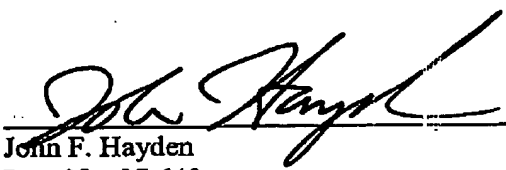
Please apply \$2840 to Deposit Account No. 06-1050 for the two-month extension of time fee (\$450), a request for continued examination fee (\$790) and the additional claims fees (\$1600), referencing Attorney Docket No. 07977-117003. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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